

Helena, Mother of Constantine - A Jewess?

Speculations on the question



Apollonian Germ

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It's more likely than you think...

Was Constantine the Great's mom jewish? Is it possible that the world-historical shift of the Roman Empire from their native Pagan faith to the foreign Jewish messianic religion of Christianity was brought about by a half-jewish Emperor? The following is my own amateurish opinion... however, I believe there is some good reason to consider it a serious possibility.

Although modern mainstream historians (according to wikipedia and other sources) deny this possibility, the German scholar Joseph Vogt, who was considered one of the leading 20th century experts on Roman history and even specialized in the era of Constantine, believed Helena Augusta, mother of Constantine, was Jewish. In this article, we will take a look at why.

But first, to give a little glimpse into how manipulable and vague history often tends to be, the fact of the matter is that only ONE single source within 100 years of her death exists, written by the semitic church historian, Eusebius... yet that hasn't stopped mainstream historians from conjecturing wildly about her life and writing whole (transparently biased) "biographies" of her.

Helena Augusta's Roman faces



Look at this at starting at 4:20. This historian, with no primary source evidence, asserts that Helena was "***probably*** of humble origins, not of urban origins either, ***possibly*** from a village... ***might have*** even been a slave!"

Literally all of these "***probablys, possiblys and might have***s" are mere conjectures that only stand on the basis of a single sentence in a text published hundreds of years later that says Helena was "*mater vilissima*"...translated as "mother of common origin" but *vilissima* translates literally to 'cheap/inexpensive/worthless' a statement that could be interpreted many different ways. Perhaps she was stingy or frugal? Perhaps she was considered worthless by the author of the [The Anonymus Valesianus](#), the name of the original text.

There is also the matter of her being called a "*stabularia*" or "innkeeper" by Bishop Ambrose of Milan in the late 4th century. This has been taken literally by historians but could have multiple meanings. Innkeeper or "tavern wench" carried then the

connotation of a sexually licentious woman. It could be that she had a reputation for being lewd, or it could be that she actually came from a family of tavern/inn owners, which, depending on the scope of the family business, could have made them quite wealthy indeed.

All considered, I highly doubt that Helena, mother of a Roman emperor, was of "humble, non-urban origins". In fact, I find the mere suggestion of it to be silly. Elites of that day, like Emperor Constantius, did not marry peasant slave girls... and yes, they were married-- historians disagree on this point too, but they were married either legally or by common-law via cohabitation, and their child Constantine was recognized as legitimate. Let us finally recall here that "commoner" or "lower class" in the context of ancient Rome did not mean "poor farmer's daughter" or "average working Joe." The Roman world was split between only two classes, as far as the elites were concerned: Patrician and Plebeian. You were either of the ruling aristocratic families, or you weren't... but being a pleb did not mean you were poor or powerless.

Now that we've touched on the (wild) speculations of modern historians, let's turn to the [conclusion of Joseph Vogt](#) (chapter 3 of the linked book) about her jewishness. Historian Jan Drijvers summarizes Vogt's argument in his book *Helena Augusta* as follows:

1. Helena was of Oriental (read: semitic) descent
2. Her appearance showed Jewish characteristics (a "vigorously curved nose", for example)
3. Her name could be inferred from the first-century princess Helena of Adiabene who, together with her son, had been converted to Judaism
4. She devoted all her efforts to finding the Cross of Jesus to erase her old sin of being jewish.



peep the schnoz on her

To me, the physiognomic and genealogical components of this argument are crucial, even though Drijvers hand-waves them away, merely stating they "cannot stand the test of scrutiny". Helena is of "Oriental descent" and has strikingly Jewish features in her early depictions... this, to me, makes the claim of her being Jewish almost the default unless proven otherwise. Yet, even more facts about her life and surrounding circumstances must be taken into account to lend even more credence to Vogt's conclusion.

Firstly, Helena is attested to have been very sympathetic to the martyr Lucian, who was the teacher of Arius, the founder of Arianism. This fact has been interpreted to mean that Helena was an Arianist believer. Arianism is a Christian doctrine which proclaims Jesus Christ was not "coeternal" with God, and Arius himself argued "that Hasidic zaddikism is a kind of Jewish Arianism". The "compatibility between Hasidic zaddikism and incarnational [Arianistic] thinking" shows that her theological sensibilities were likely influenced by a prior Judaic viewpoint (quotes from [Time and Eternity in Jewish Mysticism](#) by Shaul Magid).

Next we should consider Helena's birthplace. Although it is "generally assumed" to have been just south of Constantinople, in a town called Drepanum, historians admit that this is only an assumption on the basis of Constantine's renaming of the town to Helenopolis. However, another Helenopolis (also named after our relevant Helena) was

located in modern-day Israel, and it is just as easily assumed that the Israeli Helenopolis was her birthplace, rather than the one in Bithynia. This assumption is also congruent with the fact that Helena made an extended "pilgrimage" to the Jewish holy land in her elder years, and under the theory of her being Jewish, it takes on the added significance of her trip being a late homecoming, rather than her being just a gentile visiting as a stranger in a foreign land. Many Jews, in fact, are wont to visit Israel in their latter years so that they might die in the "holy land".



Many so-called Church Fathers looked decidedly Jewish

Finally, the ethnic composition of early Christianity, prior to Constantine's conversion, is heavily dominated by semitic conversos especially among its leadership. Constantine's biographer, Eusebius, from whom we gain the earliest information about Helena, was born in modern day Israel. Despite the fact that he is called "Greek" by historians, this seems to be on the basis of the fact that he was a merely a Greek-speaking Christian. Eusebius was taught and surrounded by other semitic church fathers such as Pamphilus, Origen, and Sozomen. Our understanding of the situation in the near East during the rise of Christianity and political machinations which led up to the adoption of Christianity by a Roman emperor become much clearer and more coherent if we recognize that the movers behind the project were a network of

ethnically Jewish/semitic elites, working to promote a religious doctrine marketed specifically to the larger 'gentile' world, in order to further their self-proclaimed agenda to 'repair the world' and enlighten what they viewed as the barbarous goyim.

In summary, so little direct evidence or information about Helena has survived that we can only make interpretations based on circumstantial evidence. Despite that, I think the mainstream historian's narrative of her being a poor rural nobody and "possibly even a slave" is absurd and can be rejected outright. I believe my, and Vogt's, proposition that she was Jewish makes far more sense. Her theological views are compatible with judaic thinking, the milieu of early Christian leadership was heavily jewish/semitic, and her physiognomy is consistent with this claim overall. What makes the most sense is that she was from a wealthy, albeit "common" (read: non-patrician) family and was set up with Constantius in order to help further jewish interests within the Roman empire's upper echelon via the indoctrination of their son and future Emperor into a heavily jewish-influenced worldview.

4 Comments



Write a comment...



Lisichin Oct 6

Literally looks like most Greek women I know. Lots of Greeks and Romans, not to mention Persians with odd physiognomies, lived in the middle east. The nose doesn't know shit.

♡ Reply Collapse ...



Woden's Reign Sep 9

I think we should take the title of "world's most dangerous anthropologist" away from Robbie sepehr and give it to Germ instead.

♡ Reply Collapse ...

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